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In the Office Action dated January 21, 2004, a restriction requirement was imposed. In particular, the Office Action states that pending claims 1-19 (Group I) and claims 20-23 (Group II) relate to independent and distinct inventions.

Initially, it should be noted that the patent application as originally filed included two claims labeled as claim 20. Therefore, the numbering of the second claim 20, and claims 21 and 22, have been amended to claims 21-23, respectively.

Applicant hereby elects pending claims 1-19 (Group I) for further prosecution in this application. Therefore, Applicant has withdrawn claims 20-23 (Group II) without prejudice or disclaimer and reserves the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims prior to the issuance of a patent on those claims elected for further prosecution at this time.

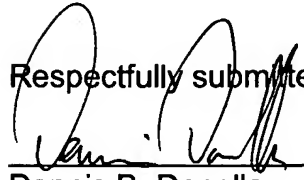
The claims now pending in the application, namely claims 1-19, are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that any unresolved issues remain in this case, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an issue resolving conference.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due at this time, however, if any fees have been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 10-0223.

Dated: 2/16/04

Respectfully submitted,



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